

26 JUL 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant for Information, DDA

FROM:

Chief, Records Review Branch, ISAS

VIA: Chief, Information Systems Analysis Staff

SUBJECT: Classification Review of Documents  
Produced by Inter-Agency Committees

1. A study of Executive Order 12065 reveals that it fails to address the classification review of material produced by the various inter-agency committees or subcommittees. The latter were generally established under the U.S. Intelligence Board (USIB) or its predecessor, the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC). How the classification review of such committee reports is to be conducted is a problem which merits early consideration.

2. A case now before RRB is a series of IAC Watch Committee Reports produced during the Korean War and classified Top Secret. There are also other documents produced by various IAC and USIB subcommittees which are subject to 20-year classification review. For example, reports published by the Economic Intelligence Committee (EIC), established 1951; Scientific Estimates Committee (SEC), established 1952 and replaced by the Scientific Intelligence Committee in 1959; Guided Missiles Intelligence Committee (GMIC), established 1956 and succeeded by GMAIC in 1958; National Intelligence Estimates (NIEs and SNIEs) produced by the Office of National Estimates; and National Intelligence Survey (NIS) publications for which the CIA was executive agent.

3. The following options in dealing with this problem are submitted:

a. Raise the matter with the IC Staff directly to accomplish the following:

(1) Apprise them of the fact that inter-agency documents are now awaiting classification review;

(2) Ask if the IC Staff plans to conduct the review of these documents and coordinate their review throughout the Intelligence Community;

(3) If yes, offer to make DDA/ISAS/RRB available for consultation to establish an IC classification review group;

(4) If no, mention that CIA (RRB) could be requested to assume this responsibility; and

(5) If the IC Staff is receptive to RRB performing the review of inter-agency committee permanent records, it must be made clear that there is now no reliable means of estimating the quantity of information involved but that such a review could require the assignment of personnel with military background to RRB. Preferably, such personnel would be assigned to RRB by the IC Staff, either on a permanent or rotating basis as required.

b. Recommend again to OGC that this matter be brought to the attention of the ICRC or NSC for resolution.

c. Pose the question at the 28 July meeting of Agency representatives when the E.O. 12065 implementing directive is to be discussed and obtain their views.

It would seem that no matter which course of action is followed the matter must be resolved by the IC Staff and brought to its attention directly by the DDA or his representative.

4. There is some logic to CIA undertaking the classification review action for the Intelligence Community on these USIB committee type documents. CIA provided the Executive Secretariat which administered and coordinated the preparation of many of these committee reports and National Estimates. CIA (RRB) has accumulated a substantial amount of experience and expertise in classification review. It is in a position to carry out this work and on a more cost effective basis. If each participating agency of these USIB subcommittees should be required to review the committee documents or National Intelligence Surveys, the effort would be monumental. Each participating agency would either have to detail knowledgeable personnel to CIA to accomplish the review or the material would have to be forwarded from one agency to another. In either case the review would be extremely time consuming and inefficient and pose an additional administrative burden on CIA.

5. In sum, there is no provision in the Executive Order for classification review of material published by inter-agency or USIB committees--and there is no assignment of responsibility as to the action party. If this responsibility is given to CIA (RRB), it is essential that there be a clear understanding between high level Agency and IC Staff management and an acceptance of the fact that (a) the dimensions of this effort cannot now be estimated with any

certainty and (b) that some personnel with military background will have to be detailed to RRB.

6. Your comments on this matter will be appreciated.



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